

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. Heading

Date : June 2, 1992
Subject: Custom Distribution, Perth Amboy, NJ
From : Paul L. Kahn, Steve Touw, OSCs, U.S. EPA, Region
II, Response and Prevention Branch
To : K. Callahan, EPA R. Salkie, EPA
J. Marshall, EPA B. Sprague, EPA
J. Frisco, EPA D. Finn, EPA
P. Carr, EPA A. Edwards, NJDEPE
J. McVeigh, EPA ERD, Washington, E-MAIL
J. Higgins, EPA TAT
POLREP NO.: Two and Final

II. Background

Site No.: N/A
Delivery Order: N/A
Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
State Notification: N/A
Action Memorandum Status: N/A
Start Date: N/A
Demobilization Date: N/A
Completion Date: N/A

III. Site Information

A. Incident Category

Emergency Response

B. Site Description

1. Site Description

The Arthur Kill Industrial Park is a 20-acre complex of mostly abandoned and deteriorated manufacturing facilities located in Perth Amboy, between State Street and the Arthur Kill. Some of the buildings on site are being used for a variety of functions, including acetylene production, fiberglass tank construction and warehousing.

2. Description of a Threat

Some of the buildings at the facility are active and there are no effective security measures to restrict access onto the site. Trespassers can be exposed by direct contact with the hazardous materials present and potentially expose others through the transport of such materials. Due to the high number of flammable materials located at the site, the threat of a fire is conceivable. A fire in the area may cause chemicals to react creating a toxic plume that will impact the environment and surrounding businesses and residences. A fire occurred at the site in 1988 which destroyed a portion of one of the abandoned buildings. The fire was attributed to vandalism.

C. Preliminary Assessment Results

See Previous Pollution Report (August 27, 1990)

IV. Response Information

A. Planned Removal Actions

None to date.

B. Situation

1. Current Situation

On May 27, 1992, a site assessment was conducted at the property owned by Custom Distribution Services, Inc. in Perth Amboy, NJ. The On-Scene Coordinators from the EPA and the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) visited the site to conduct a preliminary site assessment.

Upon arrival on-site, EPA and TAT personnel met with Charles Piazza, Vice President of Custom Distribution Services, owner of the 1050 State Street Industrial Park.

Between 1030 and 1130 hours, EPA and TAT discussed which drums would be sampled for this assessment day. The sampling areas included 15 accessible drums and containers located on the bed of a disabled truck, three drums in the surrounding area and one drum located within an abandoned building directly opposite of the truck.

At 1130 hours TAT began sampling. All activities in the "Hot Zone" took place in Level "B" protective wear. An HNu and Combustible Gas Indicator (CGI) were used to monitor the air quality in the sampling area. These same instruments and pH paper were used to characterize the contents of all drums and containers opened. All sampling locations and activities were videotaped.

A total of fifteen drums and containers were located on the truck bed. The wooden floor of the bed was found to be coated with an oily, black substance, due to the presence of several corroded and leaking drums. Throughout the day, a substance was observed to be dripping onto the ground.

Of the fifteen drums and containers located on the truck bed, nine were 55-gallon steel drums. Six of these were full of liquids, sludges, greasy or waxy materials. Two of these drums contained immiscible liquids (with two different phases) and had high HNu readings (200 and 320 units); one indicated LEL activity and a had a pH of zero. In addition to the drums, there was a full gas cylinder labeled "liquified Petroleum Gas". This is a highly flammable and explosive material.

Of the three other 55-gallon steel drums, one bulging drum with a label reading "Shell Oil Company" could not be opened due to the potential of explosion. The second drum contained a yellow sludge with a pH of 2 and the third a yellowish-brown waxy substance.

Several steel, polyethylene and fiber drums between five (5) and thirty (30) gallons were also found on the truck bed. One 30-gallon steel drum had an HNu reading of 300 units. Another 25-gallon fiber drum containing a highly alkaline white powder (pH=14) became separated from its polyethylene lining when an attempt was made to sample it.

Most of the liquid materials on the truck appeared to be petroleum products. Three drums with legible labels read "Neslo Petroleum Product", "Mobile DTE Oil", and "Shell Oil Company". The products were either non-flammable, flammable or found to be extremely explosive during hazcating procedures.

One drum close to the truck and three others located on the side of the building were sampled. These were all non-flammable and were found to be in a solid, liquid or grease-like state. A battery containing liquid with pH of 0 and several electrical devices littered the

area surrounding the truck. Two (2) unlabelled cylinders (one orange, the other light blue) were found on the side of the building, along the pathway.

One drum located within the abandoned building opposite the truck was found to contain a light brown, oily, flammable liquid (pH=7).

TAT began hazcatting the 19 samples at 1430 hours. (see Attachment for results).

At 1630 hours, the OSC requested that TAT take soil samples for compound analysis. The location of the soil sample was in the back of the facility (see map), between a monitoring well and swampy area. A hole of approximately 2.5 feet was dug. From the bottom of the hole, a hand auger was used to obtain a sample 1.75 feet further down. One sample was collected at a depth of 4.25 feet in the clay soil layer. TAT restored the area to its previous state and departed the site at 1800 hours.

2. Removal Actions to Date

None to date.

3. Enforcement

N/A

C. Next Steps

The PRP was verbally notified of the haz-cat results, and was told that the materials constituted either a RCRA waste or a hazardous waste and had to be secured and disposed of in a proper manner. OSC suggested PRP contact local hazardous waste disposal firm and arrange for the removal of the chemicals. PRP was advised that if the removal did not occur in an expeditious manner EPA would mobilize a contractor to the site and conduct the removal. PRP indicated that he would contact a disposal firm and "take care of the problem".

D. Key Issues

N/A

V. Cost Information

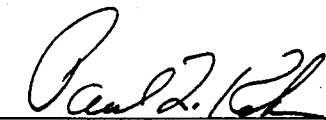
N/A

VI. Disposition of Waste

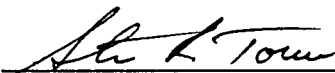
To be determined.

FURTHER
POLREPS FINAL X FORTHCOMING POLREP _____

SUBMITTED BY



Paul Kahn, OSC
Response and Prevention
Branch



Steve Touw, OSC
Response and Prevention
Branch

DATE RELEASED: 6-2-92